



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 32.12 Thursday, March 19, 2026

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBT responds to Google and DTE Energy announcement

In response to the recent announcement made by Google and DTE Energy, the Van Buren Township supervisor issued the following statement:

"We are incredibly encouraged by the interest Google is showing in Van Buren Township. A project of this magnitude represents far more than just a building. It's a significant investment in our local economy and a vote of confidence in our community's infrastructure." said supervisor Kevin McNamara.

"Beyond the immediate boost to our tax base, which helps us fund vital services like schools and public safety without placing

a heavier burden on residents. This data center will be remarkably quiet and low-impact to neighbors. We look forward to working closely with Google to ensure this project aligns with our long-term vision for Van Buren Township's growth, while creating high-quality jobs right here," he said.

To learn more, see a list of FAQs that has been compiled over the past several months during public engagement regarding Project Canolli at: https://vbtmi.gov/departments/municipal_services/data_center_project.php

Chris Zweng asks questions of city council before resigning

At the end of Monday's meeting in the new city hall on Charles Street, Assistant Fire Chief Chris Zweng had questions for the council. His questions were cut short. When he was done he resigned from the fire department.

Members of the City Council, I am requesting clarification and accountability regarding public access to council meetings, as well as transparency about the costs associated with the new city hall project.

First, regarding meeting access:

Approximately one month ago, when I was unable to attend a council meeting in person, obtaining the livestream was extremely difficult. I ultimately received a link only after the director of public safety contacted the city



Zweng

manager, who then sent her the link. This is not an appropriate or accessible process for the public.

Unlike neighboring municipalities such as Sumpter, the city's "Meetings and Agendas" webpage contains no links to livestreams or recordings. This raises several questions:

1. What is the official method for the public to view live city council meetings?
2. Where can residents access recorded meetings if they are unable to attend?
3. Why are livestream or video links not posted directly on the city website alongside agendas and materials, as is standard practice in many communities?
4. What steps will the council take to ensure that public access and transparency are not hindered by unnecessary barriers?

Additionally, regarding the new city hall: Over the past several months, the Independent newspaper has repeatedly

(continued on page 3)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin swears in John Juriga to office at the March 10 regular meeting of the Belleville Area District Library Board. Juriga, who had served for many years on the board, decided not to run for reelection last fall. He did agree to temporarily fill the vacancy created by the recent death of board member Alma Hughes-Grubbs until November's board election.

District Library to ask city to help share cost of maintaining parking lot

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Shortly after John Juriga was sworn into being a temporary member of the Belleville Area District Library Board, he broached the subject of maintenance of the library-city 90 space parking lot between the library and the new city hall.

This was at the March 10 meeting of the board, which had just approved a very detailed landscape service proposal with low-bidder DC Lawn and Snow of Carleton. The first year of the agreement is \$5,600 and the second year is \$5,920. DC

is the library's current snow removal and lawn care contractor.

The other bidder was DJ's Landscape Management of Romulus which bid \$8,283 for the first year and \$8,531.49 for the second year of the agreement.

Library director Mary Jo Suchy said the library has been in place for six years now and the trees are growing. The new service proposal was prepared after the boxwoods were removed because they weren't doing well.

Juriga, who served on the library board

(continued on page 15)

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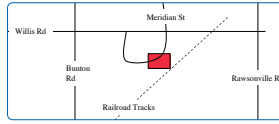
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Zweng

(continued from page 1)

asked for the total amount spent on the new city hall project. The only response provided by the city manager has been, "I will look into it," with no further information.

5. Exactly how much money has been spent to date on the new city hall project, including construction, furnishings, equipment, architectural services, and any additional related expenses?

6. Why has this information not been provided despite multiple public requests?

7. When will the city publish a complete, itemized accounting of all city hall expenses?

Public information should not require repeated inquiries, delays, or evasive answers. These are straightforward transparency issues.

Statement and questions for council member Kissel:

Council member Kissel, I am bringing forward a series of questions that require clear and direct answers for the public record. These concerns involve your conduct at the fire hall on March 10, as well as your ongoing involvement in fire-department-related matters.

On Tuesday, March 10, at approximately 6:30 p.m., you were observed going through my personal locker at the fire hall. This is not an area open to the public, the fire auxiliary, or elected officials without authorization.

(At this point in the questioning, mayor Ken Voigt stopped Zweng from talking, saying he could make statements, but this is not a question-and-answer session. So Zweng read his resignation letter instead. Below, however, are the questions he wished to ask.)

I am requesting clear answers to the following:

1. Why did you access my locker?
2. What specifically were you attempting to locate?
3. If there was a legitimate reason to access my equipment or belongings, why was I not contacted or notified?
4. Were you acting under the authority of your role as a city council member?
5. If so, which other council members were aware of or approved this action?
6. If you were acting in connection with the fire auxiliary, please explain why you believed it was appropriate to enter a restricted area and access staff property, given that the auxiliary is permitted only to meet in the building and is not authorized to handle staff equipment or lockers.

I also need to address a broader concern regarding conflicts of interest.

You have a family member who serves

on the fire department and resides in your household, and you also participate in the fire auxiliary. These relationships create an appearance of bias when you engage in discussions, reviews, or votes concerning the fire department.

Accordingly:

7. Do you believe you should be recusing yourself from all fire-department-related matters, including budget discussions, operational decisions, and personnel votes?

8. Have you sought guidance from the city attorney or reviewed the city's ethics policies regarding whether your participation is appropriate?

9. If not, will you commit to doing so immediately so this issue can be formally evaluated?

Councilwoman Kissel insisted on being able to answer why she was going through his personal locker.

The mayor relented and let her speak. She said on March 10 the auxiliary met and they walked around the fire hall. She said she looked and saw keys hanging in front of a locker and found there was a radio inside. She said she asked if this radio shouldn't be plugged in for recharging.

Kissel said she does not like to be put in this kind of position of needing to explain.

The meeting then adjourned.

Fire fighter resigns after 17 years of service

(Editor's Note: The following letter was read and then presented to the Belleville City Council at Monday's regular meeting.)

Good evening, citizens of Belleville,

After 17 years of service with the Belleville Fire Department, it is with deep sadness that I submit my resignation, effective immediately. This decision has not come easily. My wife, children, and I have made countless sacrifices for this department and this community, and it is difficult to accept that it has come to this point.

Now that my resignation is official, I feel I can finally speak openly without fear of repercussions.

For the past year and a half, I have carried out every responsibility asked of me by the director and city council -- performing the full duties of fire chief without the title or the pay. When the police chief resigned, an interim was appointed within three days. When the city manager was let go, an interim was appointed within hours. Yet when it came to the Fire Department -- referred to by the director as the "red-headed stepchild" -- I was never asked to fill the role, despite already doing the work.

As a union member who was never formally appointed interim chief, I was

restricted in what I could and could not do. The city took something that was functioning well and broke it.

Over the years, I have personally contributed thousands of dollars and countless hours to improve our station -- at no cost to the city. I epoxied the bay floor, provided and installed a \$6,000 furnace, donated furniture, built the benches and podium, and painted the entire common area. I installed a new kitchen and report room with flooring, saving the city more than \$30,000. Despite all of this, the city treated these contributions as though they meant nothing.

The staff believed in my ability to lead them. They made that clear. Yet I was never given the opportunity -- something I believe stems from personal feelings held by the mayor, who recently told me to "shut up" during a public meeting.

Even in the new city hall, the fire department remains excluded. The city manager and clerk sit at one table, the director of public safety and DPW at another, and no space was allocated for the fire chief. Once again, the fire department was pushed aside rather than included in leadership discussions.

Another concern is the hiring of consultant Gregg Flynn. The city paid \$15,000 -- \$10,000 for a report and \$5,000 for time as an embedded advisor beginning in December 2025. In March, the city extended this arrangement month-to-month. To date, Mr. Flynn has met with the fire staff only once, on Dec. 16, 2025. He has not contacted any firefighters or command staff since. The director claims he is reviewing our Standard Operating Procedures, yet those were updated in 2023, and no one in the department has been asked for input or shown any revisions.

The amount paid to Mr. Flynn in just three months exceeds what many of our firefighters earn in an entire year. Our firefighters receive no health insurance, no pension, and no paid time off -- yet they continue to serve with pride.

It has become clear that the city's leadership does not value loyalty, commitment, sacrifice, or respect for its employees. I served when we made less than minimum wage, and even now our staff averages under \$9,000 a year. Recently, the city let a police officer go after 25 years of service over a \$2-per-hour raise.

Most of us do not live in this community, yet we take tremendous pride in protecting it. The question becomes: for what, if this is how we are treated?

I was willing to take on the chief's position for the same pay as past chiefs -- around \$16,000 a year. Instead, the city now intends to pay nearly double for someone who may only push paperwork and may not be able to respond to calls in a reasonable time due to distance.

Another point worth noting is the

Director's recent statement that there were nine applicants for the fire chief position. If that is true, then -- excluding myself -- that leaves eight individuals who were supposedly eager to lead this department. Yet not one of those eight applied to join the department as a firefighter. That tells me everything I need to know: they wanted the title and the pay, not the responsibility, not the service, and not the community. Leadership should be earned through commitment and sacrifice, not pursued only when a higher-paying position becomes available.

The department is now down to seven fully trained staff members, one with only fire certification, and one with no licenses. I also want to clarify several points. My lieutenant and I wrote the 2025-2026 budget -- not the director, who made only minor adjustments. The staff fought to reinstate duty crews -- not the director. One of our fire fighters secured the turnout gear grant -- not Mr. Flynn or the director. I pushed for the new lockers, requested the new code books, and asked for the floor mats.

Regarding the grant equipment: during the initial fitting, I was asked whether we needed safety vests. I said no -- every staff member already has one, and we have eight more in storage. These vests cost about \$95 each. Last week, I was told that 15 had already been ordered. When I asked why we were spending money on items we do not need, the response was, "Why not?"

For more than a decade as an officer, our department has taken pride in staying within budget and avoiding unnecessary spending.

To the firefighters I have had the honor of serving beside for the past 17 years: thank you for your dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to this community. I am proud of the work we have done together and the department we built. My hope is that the citizens of Belleville continue to support the men and women who respond when you call for help. They deserve leadership that supports them just as strongly.

Respectfully,
Former Assistant Chief
Christopher Zweng
Belleville Fire Department

To build a better world, start in your own community!

It's Pothole Season

The Wayne County Department of Public Services said it can't fix potholes unless it knows where they are. Report Wayne County potholes to 1-888-ROAD-CREW.

OPINIONS

Editorial: It's Sunshine Week for newspapers in Michigan

Although you wouldn't know it from the grey, stormy skies, it is "Sunshine Week" in Michigan, when newspapers throughout the state remind their readers how important open information is to the public.

We all have to be watching how our elected representatives are spending our tax money. We want to see what they do with what we have to earn by the sweat of our brows. We can insist they stop, if necessary.

At the state level, the two political parties in charge have agreed not to have the House and Senate and other officials under the Open Meetings Act, although many had said they would do that as part of their campaigning.

It is embarrassing to live in a state that is one of the few in the nation who won't let the public look at their finances with FOIA. But, we have to leave that to the daily papers to report on with the staffs they have. We tiny papers can watch what is right here in our community and point out what you, our readers, are being denied.

We have yet to find out how much the new city hall is costing. OK, no new tax for it. But, how much of the residents' tax money that you already have?

It took until this week for the public to learn that Google will operate Van Buren Township's new data center. It was a big secret. Also, Sumpter Township residents should be told what, exactly, is being done with the \$140,500 construction in the supervisor's area, approved without bids. We need a lot more Sunshine around here.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

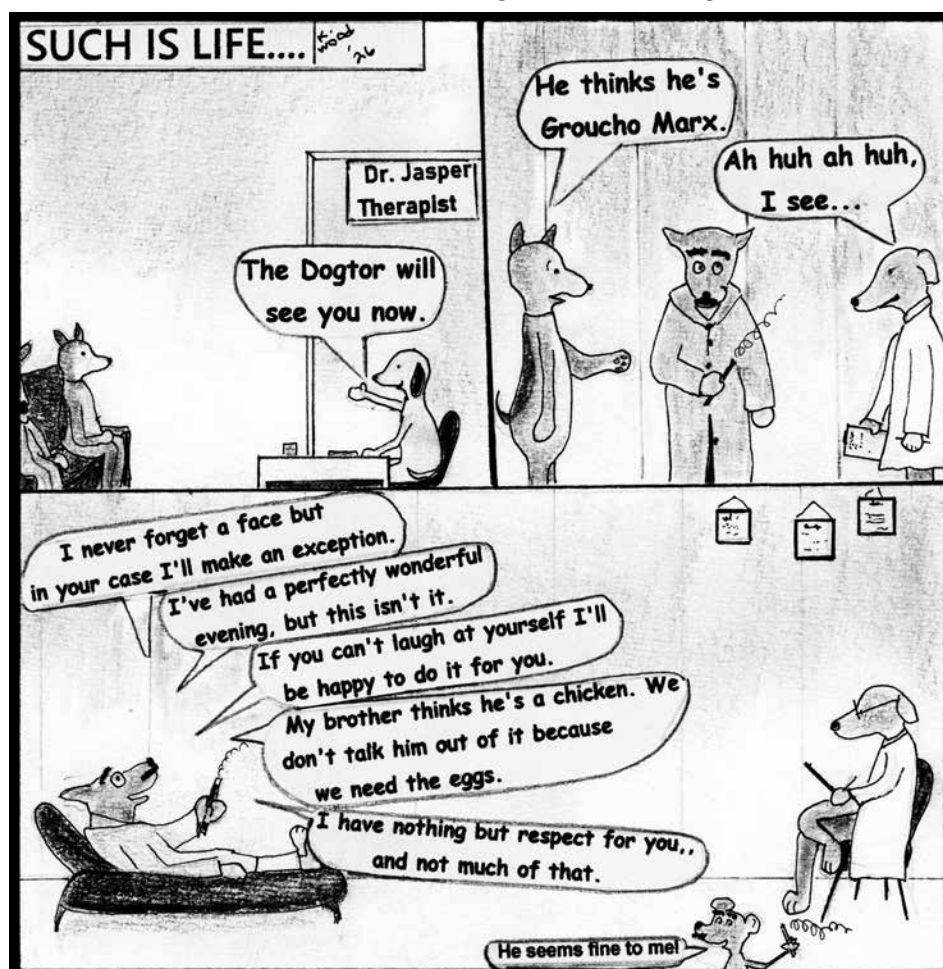
Google is the tech company that will be operating Van Buren Township's new data center. This was announced by Craine's Detroit Business on Tuesday morning in great detail. The township had a non-disclosure agreement with the developer, so wouldn't tell anyone. It was finally announced Tuesday morning by Google.

Van Buren Township said it is happy to have Google. Some say the details released are concerning. Once this edition goes to press, we will have time to read the details.

When people were joking around before the library board meeting started on March 10, 34th District Court Lisa Martin was asked how many times she has sworn John Juriga into office. Nobody knew how many times. It's been a lot of times, since he had been continually reelected to the library board in the past. That was until he decided not to run again last fall. But then he recently relented to help the board out by serving temporarily to have an experienced person fill the vacant seat of the late Alma Hughes-Grubbs. He had to be sworn in again on March 10.

Kevin Martin had joined his wife at the library board meeting and Juriga said he has known Kevin Martin a lot longer than he has known Judge Martin. Juriga said Kevin was a student in the first class he taught in the Romulus School District in 1969. "He was a good kid," Juriga recalls of the young Kevin Martin, who grew up to serve as a current elected trustee in Van Buren Township.

Monday's regular city council was quiet and business-like until the end when anyone from the audience was welcome to speak. That's when Chris Zweng stood up to speak. He tried to ask some questions, but that



wasn't allowed, so he made a statement and resigned from the fire department.

I was busy writing away and looking up to see facial expressions, so I didn't turn to look behind me in the room. I've been advised that fire fighter Kissel, the son of councilwoman Kissel, turned his chair around so his back was to Zweng as he spoke. Zweng was surprised to see something that rude happen.

I was embarrassed for the city when that was reported because 34th District Court Judge Lisa Martin was in the audience behind me on one of her many trips to municipal meetings in the court's area. Hope she didn't see that.

The morale in the city fire department is low and that's too bad, since fire fighters are the ones who rush out to help us when we are in trouble health-wise or fire-wise.

Something nice at the beginning of the city meeting was the introduction of Jasper, a dog adopted from Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, who now is a therapy dog. He wore a Canines for Christ vest. His owners, Dell and Janet Deaton, said he is taken to schools and hospitals. Everyone was glad to pet him. I guess we needed a therapy dog that night, but that was at the end of the meeting after they had gone home.

They said a few years earlier they saw Jasper in the column that FMAR furnishes to the *Independent* each week to show off dogs they have ready for adoption. The Deatons fell in love with him at once, changed his name, and Janet trained him for therapy.

She said she is often asked if Jasper sleeps with her and her husband and she said he does.

Dogs by Janet is one of our regular advertisers. She said their experience with Jasper proves that advertising in the *Independent* works.

There was wind damage at a carport on North Liberty Street in the city of Belleville last Friday. We saw a pole down along East Columbia Ave. next to Victory Park when we came in to work on Monday and thought that might be wind damage, too.

Belleville public safety director Kris Faul said the pole was hit by a distracted driver and wasn't wind damage.

I told her I know some cops who would call that damage: bad driver. She agreed.

We can't blame everything on the post office. Last week a lady called from South Biggs Street to say she got other peoples' bills in the envelope with her receipt for paying for her *Independent* subscription.

I went over to pick it up to see what happened. We had mistakenly put three extra invoices in her receipt envelope. The post office didn't do that. We did that and were able to make it right, thanks to our great reader who cared to call us.



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Letters

Annual Community Day at the Court is May 1

To the editor and community:
As the director of community engagement for the 34th District Court in Romulus, I am pleased to share that our annual Community Day is rapidly approaching.

At the request of Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley, we are honored to invite you to join us for our 5th-annual Community Day on Friday, May 1, held on the grounds of the Court at 11129 Wayne Rd., Romulus.

This event continues to grow each year as a celebration of civic engagement, education, and community partnership. We welcome you to participate in the day's activities and to interact with our three judges and dedicated court staff as we open our doors to the community we proudly serve.

The first half of the day, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., will be dedicated to our area fourth-grade elementary students.

Students are invited to participate in our art and writing contests centered on this year's themes: "The Rule of Law" and "The American Dream."

These activities are designed to promote civic understanding and inspire young minds to appreciate the role of the judicial system in their everyday lives.

Lunch will be provided from 12 to 1 p.m. to all fourth-grade students.

Beginning at 12 p.m., we will also host our second-annual Fieger Law "All We Do Is Win" High School Quiz Bowl, featuring spirited competition among students from Romulus, Belleville, Summit, and Huron high schools. Teams will compete for the Fieger Law all We do is Win trophy in what promises to be an exciting and engaging academic showcase.

Throughout the day, attendees will enjoy: public safety exhibits, a community car show, live entertainment, local vendors offering complimentary giveaways, and a variety of food trucks.

Community Day is designed to bring residents, educators, students, and public servants together in a spirit of unity and shared purpose. We hope you will join us for this special occasion as we celebrate education, civic responsibility, and community pride.

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We look forward to your participation and to welcoming you on May 1.
Avery Taylor, 34th District Court
Director of Community Engagement / Probation Officer

2025 Emergency Closet Video is now available

To the editor:
The 2025 Emergency Closet Video is now on our church's website at: bellevillefirstumc.org under Food Closet. It tells the wonderful story of all who helped feed the hungry in our community. It truly takes a village to accomplish this! Thanks to everyone who participated.

From Jan. 1 - March 6, 2026, 606 bags and frig items were distributed with 44 new clients. This is 119 more bags and 19 more clients than in the same time period in 2025.

The Emergency Food Closet, housed at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., is open to all residents of Van Buren and Sumpter Townships and the city of Belleville. Everyone receives food on his/her first visit. In order to return, one will need a referral from a pastor, school, social worker, doctor, or the Salvation Army. We are open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. unless the Van Buren Public Schools are closed due to weather. Then, we will also be closed.

Marilyn Wood, coordinator
Emergency Food Closet

Time for VBT to step out of Belleville's shadow

To the Editor:
Isn't it time for Van Buren Township to step out from Belleville's shadow?
Belleville Road runs entirely through Van Buren Township and doesn't actually pass through the City of Belleville at all. Yet it continues to carry a name that doesn't reflect the community it serves. I believe it's time for the township to consider renaming it to Van Buren Parkway.

A name like Van Buren Parkway would better represent our identity, support future development, and give our community the recognition it deserves. It's a small change that could have a big positive impact on how residents and visitors alike view the township.

I hope township leadership will give this idea serious consideration.

Chris Zweng

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Obituaries



Douglas Scott Mallion

DOUGLAS SCOTT MALLION

May 21, 1954 – March 6, 2026

Douglas Scott Mallion, age 71, of Willis, Michigan, passed away on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Trinity Health Ann Arbor Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Doug was born on May 21, 1954, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, the son of Elaine (King) Mallion. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1972.

Doug was a carpenter who took pride in his craftsmanship and strong work ethic. In addition to his work, Doug proudly served his community as a firefighter with the Augusta Township Fire Department for 27 years.

In his free time, he enjoyed snowmobiling and traveling, especially trips to Yellowstone National Park. He had a passion for classic cars and could often be found attending local car shows with his beloved '96 red-and-white Bronco, earning him the nickname "Bronco Doug."

Doug also enjoyed riding his Gold Wing motorcycle and making trips to auctions in Dundee, Michigan. One of his favorite places was the family cabin up north in Grayling, Michigan on Lake Margrethe, where he loved spending time with family and enjoying the outdoors. Doug was also a regular member of the morning breakfast group at Joe's Coney Island.

Doug is survived by his daughter Ashley Mallion of Willis, Michigan; his son Matthew Mallion of Belleville, Michigan; his grandson Silas Meadows IV; his brother Maurice (Elaine) Mallion of Mesick, Michigan; and his sister Cindy (Robert) Fowler of Arizona. He is also survived by numerous extended family members, friends, and neighbors who will miss him dearly.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734)697-4500. A Celebration of life is being planned for some time during the summer and will be announced. Memorial contributions may be made to Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

REBECCA 'BECCA' GIRARD

October 18, 1971 – March 12, 2026

Age 54, of Van Buren Township. Survived by husband David Girard and children Ivan and Tatiana Girard. Memorial gathering and service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., on Wednesday, March 25, from 4 p.m. until time of service at 6 p.m. www.davidcbrownfh.com

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Obituaries



Dorris Grey Bennett

DORRIS GREY BENNETT
 January 3, 1930 – March 9, 2026
 Dorris Grey Bennett was born in Frankford, West Virginia on January 3, 1930. She was the only child born to the union of Jesse Clingman and Iva (Loudermilk) Clingman. She graduated from Frankford High School in 1948 and went on to live a remarkable life marked by dedication to her family, faith, and community.
 Dorris married the love of her life, Herbert Bennett on February 22, 1958, in Trenton, Michigan at First United Methodist Church. They were blessed with the birth of two children and Dorris played a major role in the lives of her two stepchildren. Together they shared many wonderful years of marriage as she was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Dorris had a strong work ethic and served her community faithfully throughout her career. She worked as a secretary for the City of Romulus for ten years. Following her retirement from the city, she continued working an additional sixteen years as a paraprofessional with Romulus

Community Schools. She also spent time working in real estate as a sales agent for Century 21.
 Dorris enjoyed quilting and lovingly created many beautiful items from the heart that will be treasured by those who received them. She believed strongly in lifelong learning, loved to read, and had a thirst for knowledge about many subjects. Even in her later years, she continued attending classes through Wayne County Community College in Belleville. Her faith was an important part of her life as she regularly attended worship at Denton Faith UMC.
 Dorris Grey Bennett, age 96, of Belleville and formerly of Romulus passed away at Maple Manor of Wayne on Monday, March 9, 2026. Her passing was preceded by her parents; her beloved husband of fifty-five years Herbert Bennett on January 28, 2014; a stepdaughter Deborah Everett; and sons-in-laws Matthew McGrane and Robert Choate.
 To cherish her memory, Dorris leaves two daughters: Tamatha McGrane of Romulus and Belinda (Glenn) Walker of Fenwick, Michigan; a stepson Dennis (Susan) Bennett of Wyandotte; two grandchildren Jesse (Ciara) McGrane of Blissfield and Olivia (Ben) Meade of Battle Creek; one great-grandson Grayson McGrane; five step-grandsons; and several step-great-grandchildren.
 Friends gathered on Sunday; March 15, 2026, at Merkle Funeral Service, Romulus; 36885 Goddard Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 (734) 941-9200. A Celebration of Her Life took place on Monday, March 16, 2026, also at Merkle's, with Reverend Willie F. Smith, pastor of Denton Faith United Methodist Church, officiating. A procession to Michigan Memorial Park in Huron Township followed for burial. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Denton Faith United Methodist Church. Online guests may leave words of inspiration and comfort or share a photo by visiting www.merklefs.com.

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GAIL CONSTANCE-LEWIS EMBERY
 December 19, 1945 – March 6, 2026
 Age 80, of Belleville, after a heroic battle with cancer. Licensed clinical social worker and counselor. Survived by granddaughter Rosa Woodring; four siblings Penny, Linda, Walter and Blair. Celebration of Life set for 4 p.m., April 12, at Brown Funeral Home.
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Obituaries



Lena Wilson

Lena Wilson

March 10, 1971 – March 15, 2026

Lena Wilson, age 55 of Belleville, Michigan, passed away on March 15, 2026 surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on March 10, 1971 to Mickey and Linda Widener. She worked as a school librarian, most recently at Wegienka Elementary School in Woodhaven. Lena was known for her warm heart, wittiness, and the kind of laugh that could brighten any room. Lena brought people together. She was especially notorious as a soccer mom and for hosting her beloved annual soup parties. She gathered everyone to share food, laughter, and time together. Above all else, Lena was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who cherished her family deeply. She will be remembered for the joy she brought to others and the love she shared so freely. Lena will be deeply missed by her family, friends, students, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She is survived by her husband of 27 years (Michael Wilson), children (Shelby, Madeline, and Chandler), grandchildren (Leo, Julien, and Jean), parents (Mickey and Linda Widener), and siblings (Lara Daugherty and Lee Widener), as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and other loved ones.

A visitation has been planned for Friday, March 20, 2026, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and a visitation on Saturday from 11 a.m. until the time of service at 1 p.m. Pastor Kevin Winningham will officiate at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, Michigan, 48111, and a burial will follow at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery at 2 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, March 23 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Tuesday, March 24 – Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, 5:30 and 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 6 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 7 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., with 5 p.m. work/study as needed.



Linda Marie Lochner

LINDA MARIE LOCHNER

September 14, 1956 – March 14, 2026

Linda Marie Lochner, age 69, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 14, 2026, in the comfort of her home, with loving family and hospice care. She was born September 14, 1956, in Wayne County, MI, daughter of Leslie Whitney & Jeanette Joan (Platter) Bloodworth. Linda received her certification as a nurse's aide and enjoyed working for Henry Ford Village for many years, as well as caring for numerous as a home health aide. She enjoyed crocheting, loved to read, and was a huge fan of the Detroit Lions and Detroit Tigers. Most of all, she cherished time spent with family, and being Mia & Zak's Godmother. Mrs. Lochner is survived by her loving husband of 35 years, Gary L. Lochner, her beloved dog Quinn, four brothers and two sisters: Ray Bloodworth of River Rouge, MI, L. Tom (Linda) Bloodworth of Northern Michigan, Sherry (Jim) Cicerello of Sharpsburg, Georgia, Jettie Hagerman of Belleville, MI, Gerry (Kimberly) Bloodworth of Ypsilanti Township, MI, and Henry Bloodworth of Belleville, MI, numerous nieces, nephew, extended family and friends, as well as her Facebook Prayer Warriors.

Visitation will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2026, with a 1 p.m. Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2764 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Gordon Moore will officiate. Interment will follow in Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

BHS at-home games

- Monday, March 23 – Varsity Baseball vs. Livonia Stephenson, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 24 -- Girls Soccer vs. Carlson JV, 4 p.m.; Varsity, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25 – JV Softball vs. Livonia Stephenson (double header), 4 p.m.; JV Baseball vs. Livonia Stephenson, 4:30 p.m.; Boys Lacrosse vs. St. Mary's JV, 5:30 p.m., Varsity 7 p.m.

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City to consider raising water rates to facilitate fixing the old system

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council, a representative of Waterworth gave a lengthy zoom presentation on how his company could assist the city in getting the funds it needs to replace the aging water infrastructure.

He was invited by the city to give a proposal on what his company could do.

His eight-year study would have the system details plugged into a software program to determine when the money is needed so the council will know when to raise the rates.

He presented graphs that showed to replace \$5 million of water mains would take about 24% raise in water rates, but that would be a shock all at once. He said the chart shows the city would be in trouble in 2029. Rates could be raised in small amounts, such as 2% and 2%, then 7% and 5% and 5% and 3% over the years.

A representative of Plante Moran was scheduled to give a presentation in person, but did not come to the meeting, so discussion was postponed on the ten-year study.

Interim city manager Steve Jones said Plante Moran would propose a flat fee for a one-year study, while the Waterworth proposal calls for yearly fees.

In other business at the one-hour-and-20-minute meeting, the council:

- Heard Public Safety Director Kris Faull read a Letter of Commendation for Hazel Worden, who could not be present at the meeting. The nine-year-old resident was commended for bravery during a medical emergency involving her father, Jason Worden. She unlocked her father's cell phone and called 911 for help and carefully followed instructions and provided assistance until emergency personnel arrived on scene. Director Faull said the girl basically saved her father's life. The letter will be framed and presented to Hazel at her home;

- Approved a 2-3 p.m. March 21 wedding at the Victory Park pavilion for Kevin and Loni Holmes, with about ten people expected to attend;

- Approved changing the official election day polling location and early voting site from the former St. Anthony Catholic Church building to the new city hall location at 330 Charles St.;

- Held the first reading of an adoption of the updated fire code to make sure the city is current;

- Set up a timeline for approval of the new 2026-27 city budget. The council members were divided up to meet with administrators of the three areas: DPW, fire/police, and administration. The presentation of the budget will be May 4, a public hearing June 1, and a special meeting June 26 at 6:30 p.m. This will get the budget all wrapped up by the end of June and it will take effect July 1, Mayor Ken Voigt said;

- Approved a five-year contract with HydroCorp for commercial cross-connections, required by the state;

- Approved a BORA DORA social district permit for Krasniai R. Co. LLC doing business as Belleville Bait Shop.

(continued on page 16)



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This the the Belleville High School Girls Bowling Team which were KLAA and Regional Champions. From left are Olivia Klinck, Allie Horchem, Madison Thomas, head coach Cynthia Allison, Janelle Finrock, Madisyn Milton, and Taeya Smith.

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Additional murder mystery show added at VBT Community Ctr.

Van Buren Community Players announces an added a matinee show of "Murder's in the Heir" on Saturday, March 21, at 1 p.m.

This will be a show-only performance. There will not be a buffet dinner provided. There will be gourmet cupcakes available for purchase.

Turn the game of "Clue" into a play and you have the entertaining "Murder's in the Heir." Almost every character in this mystery has the weapon, opportunity and motive to commit the unseen murder. In addition, it is up to the audience to decide who actually did it.

Select your seats at <https://vbtvbc.ludus.com>. Ticket prices range from \$16-\$20. Online ticket sales end one hour before the performance. If any tickets remain, they will be available to purchase in person at the community center desk.

The show will be performed in the Aspen Room of the Van Buren Community Center located at 46425 Tyler Rd. Van Buren Township.

For more information on this show and all upcoming shows, visit www.vanburencommunityplayers.com, email vanburencommunityplayers@gmail.com or call (734) 796-7900.

Court Watching

Sunshine Wallace

Sunshine Wallace of Van Buren Township is charged with domestic violence on Nov. 12, 2025 in Van Buren Township. She was video-arraigned in custody on Nov. 13 and scheduled for a remote pretrial on Dec. 10. That was adjourned for discovery until Jan. 2. Personal bond is \$5,000. A trial was scheduled for March 3 and then adjourned to April 14.

David Lee Gray

David Lee Gray of Belleville is charged



Cast members standing, from left, are Barb Day, Maddie Dickerson, Jill Yob, Tiffany Darby, Jen Cousino, Nevaeh Robinson, Heidi Leads, and Andrea VanDenBergh. Seated from left are Damon Williams, Marci Karp, Brandon Gallerani, Elizabeth Rusanchin, and Cindy Franklin.

with two counts of operating while intoxicated-3rd offense on Dec. 22, 2025 in the city of Belleville. He was video arraigned in custody on Feb. 18. Personal bond is \$10,000. Probable cause conference is March 3 and preliminary exam is March 10.

On March 3, those dates were removed from the calendar and the probable cause conference reset to March 31

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City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 2, 2026 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Voigt Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Present

Council Member Kissel Present
Council Member Beebe Present
Council Member Priest Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- **Presentations**
 - i. **SEMCOG-Grant Check Presentation**
 - 1. Kevin Vittrano of SEMCOG presented the city with a check for \$552,890, for the purpose of road improvements on Main St.
- **Citizen Comments**
 - i. None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Bates to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda groups routine meeting discussion points into a single agenda item. In so doing, the grouped items can be approved in one action, rather than through the filing of multiple motions.

- **Approval of Minutes**
 - i. February 17, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- **Budget report**
 - i. As of February 24, 2026
- **Communications**
 - i. None.
- **Council Follow-up list**
 - i. As of February 25, 2026

• Police Stats

i. None.

• Fire Stats

i. None.

• DPW Report

i. None.

• Special Events

- i. Buddy Poppy Distribution
- ii. Memorial Day Ceremony
- iii. Reiki Healing Event

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

• None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

- a. **Resolution # 26-011 – Opposing Housing Development Legislation**

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to approve **Resolution # 26-011**, as presented.

Motion Carried.

- b. **Resolution #26-012 – Adoption of Assailant Policy**

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve **Resolution #26-012**, as presented.

Motion Carried.

c. Nixle Cancellation

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Kissel approving city administration to cancel the city's contract with Nixle.

Motion Carried.

- d. **Resolution #26-013 – Acceptance of Residential Cross Connection – Hydrocorp**

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve **Resolution # 26-013**, as presented.

Motion Carried.

- e. **Geese Mitigation – Potential Cost Split with DDA**

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Bates to approve the cost of geese mitigation in Horizon and Village parks, at a cost to be split 50/50 with the DDA.

Motion Carried.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe Aye
Council Member Priest Aye
Council Member Kissel Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Aye
Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

- f. **Selection – Recruitment Firm, City Manager Search**

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Bates to approve Pivot Municipal Group as the selected recruitment firm for the City Manager search.

Motion Carried.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe Aye
Council Member Priest Aye
Council Member Kissel Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates Aye
Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

- Accounts Payable
- Departmental Expenditures

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Beebe to approve Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures in excess of \$2,500, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Council Member Beebe Aye
Council Member Priest Aye
Council Member Kissel Aye
Mayor Voigt Aye

Motion Carried.

10. INTERIM CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- Welcome everyone to the city's new municipal building and thank you to all who made it possible to hold the meeting in the building.
- There are still a few items to be installed at the new building, and the new target date for moving is the end of March.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. **Mayor Pro-Tem Bates**

- i. Appreciated the signage for the meeting tonight.
- ii. Thank you to all attendees of the "inaugural meeting" at the new City Hall.
- iii. Thank you to all who have helped with the City Hall project, including Interim City Manager Jones who provided the sound equipment for the meeting.
- iv. Thank you to SEMCOG for providing us with funding from the Safe Streets For All program.
- v. Excited about the use of GoGov.

- b. **Council Member Beebe**

- i. Thank you SEMCOG for the funding.
- ii. The current sitting Council has been great at getting things done.

- c. **Council Member Kissel**

- i. Great to be in the new space.
- ii. It was an exciting weekend at the new building; thank you Interim City Manager Jones for coming in to assist.
- iii. Thank you to all of the contractors, subcontractors, Van Buren Township Building Department, and local businesses who have played a role in the City Hall project.
- iv. The Master Plan review will take place at the April 9th Planning Commission Meeting.

- d. **Council Member Priest**

- i. Excited to be in the new building.
- ii. Thank you to SEMCOG for presenting, and for all that they do.
- iii. Thank you to the DPW for all their work.

12. Mayor's Comments

- Excited to be in the new building.
- Excited to utilize the funding from SEMCOG and to see the intended projects comes to fruition.
- Interim City Manager Jones is doing a great job of managing the Community Events Sign.
- Gulf Oil Change at 5-Points recently changed their façade, and it looks great.
- Excited to see the façade renovations at Hayward's.
- Reminder that the Mayor's Ball will be held on April 25th at the BYC.

13. CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

e. None.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEEING

• None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Priest to adjourn at 7:04 PM. No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Briana Papin, City Clerk/Treasurer
Published: March 19, 2026

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, March 19** – Messiah Lutheran Church offers Bible Study from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Thursday at 11900 Belleville Rd. (Belleville Presbyterian Church)

• **Thursday, March 19** – Belleville High School Varsity, Concert and Symphony bands play at Hill Auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is free. Hill Auditorium is at 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor.

• **Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21** – Belleville High School hosts the Robotics Competition for teams across the region. All day Friday and Saturday in the gymnasium. Public welcome. No entry charge. Vendors.

• **Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22** – The Van Buren Community Players present "Murder's in the Heir" dinner theater at the Van Buren Community Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. Tickets must be

purchased by March 14 at <http://vbtvbc.ludus.com>

• **Sunday, March 22** – Cabaret Concert and Taco-Nacho Bar at 3 p.m. at Open Arms Church, 7865 Belleville Rd. Adults \$20 and kids, \$10. Children 5 years and under free. This is a Belleville Community Chorus fund raiser.

• **Wednesday, March 25** – Jazz Night at the Belleville Area District Library with the Trio Escobar at 7 p.m. Join us for a vibrant evening of Latin music, rhythm and soul.

• **Wednesday, March 25** – The organizational meeting of a new tri-community Lions Club to serve Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter is at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library, 167 Fourth St. All are welcome.

• **Saturday, March 28** – Faith Community Church, 894 E. Huron River Dr., from 10 a.m. to noon, will offer an Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, games, candy, inflatables and food.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **April 08th, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in person at Van Buren Township Hall, located at **46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111**, in the Board Room.

Case 25-025: El Car Wash – Special Land Use Request. A request by applicant El Car Wash MI Belleville LLC to construct a 4,640 square foot facility to provide express (automatic) exterior automobile wash services and self-serve vacuuming, along with a 7,108 square foot building comprising of four (4) restaurant tenant spaces, including one offering drive-through service located at addresses 10525 Belleville Road, 10501 Belleville Road and 10401 Belleville Road, on the East side of Belleville Road, South of Westlake Apartments.

Zoning Text Amendment: Temporary Land Use Firework Stands / Tents. The zoning amendment is for Article 2. Definitions, Section 2.02 to add a new definition for Firework Stand and Section 7.120 Temporary Land Uses, to amend the language of approval for prior consecutively approved Firework stands/tents.

Please address any written comments to the Van Buren Township Planning Commission at, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 or by e-mail to bwilliams@vbtmi.gov. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date and all materials relating to this request are available for public inspection at the Van Buren Township Hall prior to the hearing.

Van Buren Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aides and services to individuals with disabilities who are planning to attend. Please contact the Van Buren Township Planning & Economic Development at 734-699-8913 at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting if you require assistance.

Posted: March 16, 2026
Published: March 19, 2026

Dollis-Brady of VBT reappointed to School Retirement System Brd.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced on Feb. 26 that she is reappointing Michelle Dollis-Brady, of Van Buren Township, to a new term on the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System Board.

Dollis-Brady is the director of pension and benefits for the Michigan Catholic Conference. She holds a bachelor of science in business administration and marketing from Louisiana State University.

Dollis-Brady will be reappointed to represent the general public with experience in actuarial science or health insurance for a term commencing March 31, 2026 and expiring March 30, 2030.

The Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System Board is responsible for general oversight of retirement, survivor, and disability benefits to employees in public school districts, intermediate school districts, community colleges and certain universities.

This reappointment is subject to the advice and consent of the senate.

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Notice to Advertisers – private gun sales:

It is the responsibility of both the classified seller and buyer to ensure they understand all laws applicable to private gun sales in Michigan. The *Belleville-Area Independent* is not responsible for the legal compliance of classified buyers and sellers.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on March 28, 2026 at 12:00 p.m., FULL HOUSE SELF STORAGE at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following items: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, and other miscellaneous items.

H369, Jodie A Swan; P768, Michael J Dickerson; N810, O715, S962, Terry Booth.

Publish: March 12 and March 19, 2026

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— Mae West

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District Library

(continued from page 1)

for many years, chose not to run for reelection last fall and was replaced. When one of the board members died, Juriga was brought back on the board to temporarily serve until the end of the year.

When approving the accounts payable, Juriga also commented on the \$6,375 cost and snow removal by DC, the library vendor. He was reminded that this was an unusual winter.

During discussion of the lawn care

agreement, board president Sharon Peters said they did not expect city hall to be where it is now when the parking lot was being built. Now, she thinks the city should at least take responsibility for sealing cracks in the parking lot because part of the parking lot belongs to them.

Director Suchy said a piece of the grass at the end of the lot may belong to the city.

Peters said she would sit down and talk with them about it.

She recalled when the former library was being replaced, the site chosen was a city-owned parking lot. She said there were

negotiations and the city and the library agreed to have joint responsibility for the new parking lot.

"It's appropriate and worth discussion with the city," she said.

Juriga said the EV charging stations at the end of the parking lot by the new city hall have been hooked up for a long time. He said the interim city manager told him that DTE has been dragging its feet by not powering them up. He said the city got them installed and will be getting some income from them.

In other business at the one-hour-22-

minute meeting, the board:

- Heard a report from Michele Montour, the non-board member chairwoman of the Art Committee. She also is curator of the library's gallery. She said she invited herself to be on the Belleville/Van Buren art sculpture committee and they met earlier that day to choose the art which will be installed in May. She gave board members a printout of the planned exhibits for 2026, 2027, and 2028, with four exhibits per year for three months each;

- Heard Suchy report that Standard and Poors Global Ratings conducted a review of the library regarding general obligation debt. S&P upgraded the library's rating from A+ to AA- based upon its surpluses, reserves, and stable outlook. The board applauded. Suchy said if they ever decide to go out to borrow this would be helpful;

- Heard Peters report that it has been at least 20 years since the Friends of the Library have raised the prices of the used books they sell and they are planning to implement a new price schedule soon;

- Heard Suchy report on upcoming events at the library and showed pictures of the recent stuffy sleepover and pajama storytime. She said the children came in their pajamas and brought along a stuffed toy that they left at the library overnight and the children went home. The toys were in brown bags, which were their sleeping bags. In the morning they were able to pick up their toys and see the pictures of the toys having fun overnight;

- Learned Suchy has notified Otis Elevator to terminate its maintenance contract effective June 1. She said she is securing maintenance quotes from two other elevator companies;

- Heard Suchy explain the three-month budget report in the absence of treasurer Tanya Stoudemire. Peters said, "We are good stewards of the dollar." Then she went on, "Our treasurer is doing heavy lifting for the city of Detroit." Later she explained that Stoudemire is CFO of Detroit, which is a big job. In her experience, she said, that position is often filled by people who are "all puffed up." But Stoudemire brings a calming influence. She said she saw Stoudemire on television the night before this meeting and she was standing next to the mayor for a budget story. "We want everyone to know she is very special not only to Belleville, but to Detroit and the state, as well," Peters said; and

- Heard board secretary Joy Cichewicz say she was mistaken when she previously said she lost all her bees to the harsh winter. She said she has bees that make it through the winter. She said it got warm and one of the hives came out. She said the hives are dependant on the queens and one of the hives didn't survive.

The meeting started with a bare quorum with Dan Fleming, Tanya Stoudemire, and Joy Cichewicz absent. Cichewicz arrived 25 minutes late.

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **1:00 p.m. on April 7, 2026**, for the Belleville High School HS4 Security Access Control Hardware Project. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud via Microsoft Teams meeting immediately following the deadline for submission. Van Buren Public Schools will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at Belleville High School, 501 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111, on **Wednesday March 18, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.**

All Bids must be addressed to Van Buren Public Schools, 555 W. Columbia, Belleville, MI. 48111 Attention: Mr. James Williams, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Bid Security, Cashier's Check or Certified Check in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the bid must be included along with a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the School District. A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure Statement must be included. A sworn and notarized criminal background check affidavit must be included and a sworn and notarized non-collusive affidavit must be included. Accepted bidders may be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=e7ecad0559834b57a484fca2cab38b3a>

Documents will be available for viewing on **March 16, 2026**. Any questions, contact Rob Kakoczki with Plante Moran Realpoint at Rob.Kakoczki@plantemoran.com or 248-982-2338.

Published: March 19, 2026

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until **1:00 p.m. on April 7, 2026**, for the Haggerty Elementary School Abatement and Building Demolition Project. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud via Microsoft Teams meeting immediately following the deadline for submission. Van Buren Public Schools will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at Haggerty Elementary School, 13770 Haggerty Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, on **Thursday March 19, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

All Bids must be addressed to Van Buren Public Schools, 555 W. Columbia, Belleville, MI. 48111 Attention: Mr. James Williams, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Bid Security, Cashier's Check or Certified Check in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the bid must be included along with a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the School District. A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure Statement must be included. A sworn and notarized criminal background check affidavit must be included, and a sworn and notarized non-collusive affidavit must be included. Accepted bidders may be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:

<https://environmentatestingandconsu.sharepoint.com/:f/r/sites/Public-/Shared%20Documents/Public/VBPS%20Haggerty%20Demo?csf=1&web=1&e=Skv0C5>

Documents will be available for viewing on **March 16, 2026**. Any questions, contact Alex Noble at 734-955-6600 x 203 or alex.noble@2etc.com

Published: March 19, 2026

**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**

City Council

(continued from page 9)

Mayor Voigt said the business changed ownership and will be seeking its liquor license through the Liquor Control Commission. The local approval of the social district permit is a part of the LCC license approval;

- Heard interim city manager Jones announce that the current city hall at Five Points will be closed April 9, 10, and 13 and reopen at its new location at 330 Charles St. on April 14. All the online services will stay in place. While the current city hall is closed, they will be moving from the current building to the new building and setting up. A sign will be put on the front door so people will know what is happening;

- Approved accounts payable including amounts in excess of \$500: \$8,127 to ETNA and \$3,614.03 to Core & Main, both for DPW for parts for the water system;

- Heard Jones report there were two water main breaks that day, both due to the North

Liberty Street construction. A third, that just happened, was not due to construction. Leaf pickup will continue from last fall's leaf pickup which was interrupted, he said;

- Heard mayor Voigt say compost in bags will be picked up beginning April 1;

- Heard councilman Randy Priest say he is frustrated that the county hasn't done anything about the flooded sidewalks at 123 E. Columbia Ave. and 259 E. Huron River Dr. The sidewalks are lower than the county drain causing draining problems. He has been trying to get this fixed for ten years, he said;

- Heard councilwoman Julie Kissel say she is glad to see the process going forward to hire a city manager; and

- Heard one person get up to give comments from the audience. It was Chris Zweng, who spoke and then resigned from the fire department after service of 17 years.

**One Call Does It All...
...At The Independent
734-699-9020**

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES

Bid Titled, “**HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES**” may be submitted by U.S. Mail, personal service, or courier service to the Township Clerk’s Office at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. No bids submitted by facsimile will be accepted. Bids are to be delivered in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as “HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES – 2026-2027”. Thursday, April 16 at 3:00 p.m., is the deadline to receive for sealed bids. All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud with total pricing immediately following in the Denton Room.

A mandatory pre-bid tour and meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 6, 2026, at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Any questions must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. Thursday April 9, 2026.

All bids shall be delivered to the Van Buren Township Clerk’s Office in sealed envelopes and titled, “**HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES**”. The outside of the envelope containing the bid shall bear the name of the Bidder, their address, license number if applicable, and the name of the project for which the bid is submitted, to include experience, equipment and minimum of three (3) references.

1. Name and address of company
2. Telephone number
3. Name of contact person

The scope of this contract shall include all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, service and insurance by the Bidder to complete the bid entitled: “**HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND ON-CALL SERVICES**”. Bid bonds will be returned to unsuccessful bidders when contract is executed with the approved bidder.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of **five percent (5%)** of the bid amount subject to the conditions in the Information to Bidders. A bidder will be permitted to withdraw their bid unopened after it has been deposited, if such request is received prior to the time specified for opening bids and provided that their identity is made known and the responsible party signs for the bid. No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of the bids without the consent of the Township for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the scheduled time for closing bids.

The Township reserves the right: to accept any or all alternative bids; to award the Contract to other than the lowest Bidder; to waive any irregularities of informalities, or both; to reject any or all bids; and in general, to make the award of the Contract in any manner deemed by the Township, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the Township. Conditional bids will not be considered. The Charter Township of van Buren is an equal opportunity contractor which does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, or physical disability. All qualified contractors are urged to respond.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT, AS WELL AS SPECIFICATIONS, MAY ALSO BE ACCESSED ON THE VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP WEBSITE AT WWW.VBTMI.GOV AND BIDNET.COM

Published: March 5, 2026, March 12, 2026, March 19, 2026

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT MASTER PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, following the public review period of at least 63 days, a public hearing will be held in person at the Belleville Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 330 Charles St., Belleville, MI 48111, in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2008, as amended (MPEA) and the Open Meetings Act, PA 267. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss the City’s draft Master Plan. After holding the public hearing, the Planning Commission may adopt the Master Plan.

A copy of the draft Master Plan will remain available for review at City Hall, the Belleville Area District Library, and online at: <https://bellevilleonthelake.com/>

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Should you have any public comments on the draft Master Plan, please email comments to Steve Jones, Interim City Manager, at sjones@belleville.mi.us with the subject line “Master Plan Public Comment” or mail written comments to Steve Jones, 6 Main St. Belleville, Michigan 48111. Written comments may be submitted in person at the same address. Written comments will be received up to close of business (4:00 pm) preceding the hearing.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the City Clerk’s office at least 2 days prior. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at <https://bellevilleonthelake.com/meetings/>.

For additional project information or questions, please contact Steve Jones at 734-252-4317 or e-mail sjones@belleville.mi.us.

Briana Papin
City Clerk/Treasurer

Published: March 19, 2026, March 26, 2026, April 2, 2026, April 9, 2026

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



Did you notice the new advertiser in our business card section? Saad Party Store on the corner of Savage and Martinsville wants to make sure you don't miss them. Savage is a busy road and Saad is a quick stop for your snacks, adult beverages, those few groceries you forgot, and lottery tickets. Sure beats running into those big stores for our odds and ends. Plus you don't have to walk a mile to get to the front door!

New also to the business card section of the paper is B&R Custom Carpentry. They

are available for all your building and renovation needs.

Good news for all you people who couldn't get a seat for "Murder's in the Heir." The dinner/theatre sold out but they have added a matinee on Saturday, March 21, at 1 p.m. This will be a performance only.

Sunday, March 22, is Angel Food Catering's Bridal Blueprint from noon until 4 p.m. See their ad in the paper. Plus this is also the last ad for Midwest Auto, which holds their public car auctions on the third Friday of each month.

Don't forget the Cabaret Concert and Taco/ Nacho Bar fundraiser for the Belleville

Community Chorus at Open Arms Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m. They don't do many fundraisers and count on sponsors and donations at their concerts, so your attendance will go a long way in keeping this very important chorus entertaining the community for many years to come.

Next Wednesday, March 25, at 7 p.m. is Jazz Night at the Library. Enjoy a vibrant evening of Latin music, rhythm and soul with Trio Escobar.

Although the Easter Bunny has really nothing to do with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, it has become a tradition in this country. There are many churches who have this spring event that area

children look forward to each year. To that end I'll let you know as best I can where and when you can satisfy your sweet tooth.

• On Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to noon, Faith Community Church, 894 E. Huron River Dr., will hold an Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, games, candy, inflatables, and food.

• Also, on March 28 Sumpter Township will have its Easter Celebration from noon until 2 p.m. at Graham Park with pictures, an egg hunt, coloring contest and an egg relay.

• LifePointe Church will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 29, at 1:30 p.m. for ages 12 and under. You can find them at 45170 Hull Rd.

• On Saturday, April 4, Flop E Bunny will make its annual appearance at Victory Park in Belleville from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Watch for the ad in next week's paper.

Do you have an item you would like to see in this column? Call Janet Millard at (734) 699-9020.



- March 15 – Bella Riemer
- March 20 – Kenneth Stewart
- March 21 – Melissa Griffin
- March 22 – Jerry Meadows
- March 26 – William Otzman

Do you or does someone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* and we will publish it as soon as possible.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Charter Township of Van Buren Annual Cemetery Cleaning Notice

The Department of Public Services will be conducting its annual spring cleaning at all Township cemeteries.

Spring cleaning will begin Monday, March 30, 2026

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items and similar objects will be discarded if not removed before **March 30**

New items may be displayed beginning Friday, April 3, 2026

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following cemeteries:

- Denton** - 49780 Cross St. (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)
- Soop** - 49250 Denton Road (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton Road)
- Tyler** - 39820 Tyler Road (Tyler and Hannan Roads)
- Otisville** - 41875 Riggs Road

For additional information contact
The Clerk's Office at 734.699.8909

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Published: March 12, 2026
Published: March 19, 2026
Published: March 26, 2026

BONECUTTERS TREE EXPERTS, LLC

STORM DAMAGE & FALL DISCOUNTS!

50% DISCOUNT IF YOU KEEP WOOD/BRUSH!

- Storm Clean Up
- Free Estimates
- Tree Topping & Trimming
- Tree & Shrub Removal
- Stump Removal • Bucket Service

YEAR ROUND
SERVICE BY
PROFESSIONALS

Insured & Senior Discounts

(734) 431-4202

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 327 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, March 8:

0018 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Pinewood Ln.
0106 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, E. Walden Dr.
0117 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Morton Taylor Rd.
0126 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbour Club
0316 – intrusion alarm, Belle Pointe Dr.
0452 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Winding Pond Dr.
0528 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1352 – harassment call, E. Sadie Ln.
1425 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1528 – lost property/child, Rawsonville Rd.
1603 – threat, Haggerty Rd.
1612 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr. / Beacon Trl.
1852 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1927 – malicious destruction of property, S. Bellridge Dr.
2048 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sheldon Rd.
2117 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Visteon Way
2149 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd.
2213 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Pond Ridge Ln.
2338 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr. / Linda Vista Ct.

Monday, March 9:

0216 – noise complaint, Outer Dr.
0707 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
0747 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
0822 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
0909 – background investigation, Tyler Rd.
1201 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1225 – harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1309 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1626 – family trouble, Country Walk Blvd.
1624 – welfare check, Tyler Rd.
1647 – trespassing, Walden Woods
1658 – found property/child, Westlake Cir.
1805 – intrusion alarm, Andover Dr.
1826 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.
1819 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hayes St.

1912 – follow up by officer, Ecorse Rd.
2116 – harassment call, Brandi Dr.
2218 – animal complaint, Spruce Ln.
2219 – assist fire dept., Ecorse Rd.
2310 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd./W. Huron River Dr.

Tuesday, March 10:

0033 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, N. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – repossession, E. Archwood Dr.
0302 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Arthur St.
0302 – motorist assist, Hoeft Rd./W. Huron River
0444 – assist fire dept., Haggerty Rd.
0717 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.
0801 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Owen
0847 – welfare check, Truman/E. Adams
1011 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Van Buren St.
xxxx – private property impound, W. Adams
xxxx – private property impound, W. Adams
xxxx – private property impound, Maple Dr.
1307 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1308 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1309 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1343 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1330 – intrusion alarm, Oak Ln.
1413 – family trouble, Martz Rd.
xxxx – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1420 – warrant arrest, Russel
1530 – civil matter, Bemis Rd.
1712 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1721 – vehicle lockout, N. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Chester Ct.
1953 – intrusion alarm, Water's Edge Ln.

2015 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
2047 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
2128 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
2228 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
2236 – follow up by officer, Ecorse Rd.
2242 – missing person, Redwood Ct.
2247 – family trouble, Martz Rd.

Wednesday, March 11:

0305 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Rawsonville Rd./Martz Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Chinkapin Dr.
0425 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
0809 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Filmore St.
0834 – assist other dept., Park Estates Dr.
0845 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0915 – PPO violation, Parkwood Dr.
1045 – civil matter, Old Michigan Rd.
1224 – civil matter, Price Rd.
1246 – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – private property impound, Independence Ln.
xxxx – private property impound, Independence Ln.
1308 – harassment call, Belleville Rd.
1328 – holdup alarm, Oak Ln.
1336 – threat, Belleville Rd.
1348 – parking complaint, Stonebridge Ct.
1343 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1344 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1345 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1405 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1444 – 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1453 – dumping complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1506 – civil matter, Vernon St.
1555 – assist other dept., Elwell Rd.
1559 – civil matter, Beck Rd.
1606 – mental subject, Filmore St.
1606 – family trouble, Rose Blvd.
1618 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1618 – property damage accident, N. Cumberland
1617 – civil matter, Daniel Dr.
1651 – civil matter, Maple Dr.
1636 – breaking & entering, S. Cumberland Dr.
2148 – warrant arrest, Denton Rd.
1701 – parking complaint, Belleville/Van Born
1703 – suicidal person, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1811 – threat, Lake Point Pass
1721 – fraud, Belle Pointe Dr.
1726 – larceny, Rawsonville Rd.
1750 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1819 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
1825 – civil matter, Maple Dr.
1843 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Beckley Rd.
2112 – abandoned auto, Haggerty/Van Born
2256 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.

Thursday, March 12:

0048 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0124 – assist other dept., Rawsonville Rd.
0223 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0520 – assist other dept., Brookview Dr.
0803 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0934 – warrant arrest, N. Telegraph Rd.
0941 – traffic offense, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.
0949 – private property impound, Kirkridge Park
1014 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
xxxx – repossession, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1209 – warrant arrest, Russell St.
1208 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1502 – suspicious activity report, McBride Ave.
1526 – assist fire dept., E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
1538 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.

1544 – assault & battery, Harbour Club
1601 – domestic, Sadie Ln.
1633 – fraud, Ormond Dr.
1637 – welfare check, Buchanan st.
1659 – family trouble, E. Sadie Ln.
2143 – disorderly, Wing Stop
2207 – disorderly, Sumpter Rd.
2300 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Leon Dr.
2321 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.

2326 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr./Rawsonville Rd.

Friday, March 13:

0212 – robbery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0346 – intrusion alarm, Harmony Ln.
0435 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.
0810 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0817 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.

0845 – larceny from auto, Beckley Rd.
0827 – assist other dept., Tyler Rd.
0853 – suicidal person, Belleville Rd.
0936 – dumping complaint, Alden Ave./S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – lost property/child, E. Main St.
1058 – harassment call, McBride
1213 – property damage accident, Hull/Sumpter
1255 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1337 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1419 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1427 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1512 – intrusion alarm, Water's Edge Ln.
1520 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1725 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
1820 – missing person, McBride
1825 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1854 – intrusion alarm, Andover Dr.
1920 – intrusion alarm, Martinsville Rd.
1922 – assist fire dept., Quirk Rd.
1925 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
1934 – vehicle lockout, Hamilton St.
1937 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1955 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2149 – intrusion alarm, Martinsville Rd.
2237 – family trouble, Revere Dr.
2242 – robbery, Huron River Dr.
2310 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.

Saturday, March 14:

0019 – intrusion alarm, Martinsville Rd.
0139 – 911 welfare check, Country Walk Blvd.
0845 – road hazard, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
xxxx – repossession, Timberview Ct.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1016 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave.
1021 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1110 – civil matter, Laurelwood Dr.
1150 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1332 – intrusion alarm, Briarwood Ct.
1350 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1427 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1414 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave.
1429 – suicidal person, Sumpter Rd.
1518 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1651 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1724 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Country Walk Blvd.
1806 – family trouble, Winchester St.
1835 – vehicle lockout, Ecorse Rd.
1851 – intrusion alarm, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1917 – welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
2015 – found property/child, N. Sadie Ln.
2115 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Hannan Rd./Ecorse Rd.
2114 – hospice death, Liberty Ln.
xxxx – 911 welfare check, Walden Blvd.
2358 – civil matter, Ecorse Rd.

Also, on this log are 125 traffic stops, seven of which are on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 8:

1044 – assist fire dept., Hull Rd.
1749 – civil matter, Main St.
2210 – animal complaint, Menlo Park Dr.

Monday, March 9:

1652 – civil matter, Savage Rd.
1729 – civil matter, S. Edgemont Ave.
Tuesday, March 10:
0126 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Columbia Ave.
0207 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
0942 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Industrial Park Dr.

1152 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Anaheim St.
1226 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, W. Wabash Ave.
1331 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1404 – traffic offense, South St./E. Davis St.
1536 – 911 welfare check, Main St.
1554 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Main St.
1949 – welfare check, Main St.

2215 – assist fire dept., Estrada Dr.
2250 – assist fire dept., San Carlos Dr.
Wednesday, March 11:
0011 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
0854 – follow up by officer, Potter Dr.
1320 – private property/property damage accident, South St.
1634 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1820 – welfare check, Main St.
1828 – animal complaint, Main St.

Thursday, March 12:

0108 – assist other dept., Second St.
0858 – repossession, Anaheim St.
0859 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1047 – threat, Santa Clara St.
1411 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1412 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1412 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1413 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1532 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.
2213 – assist fire dept., S. Biggs Ave.
2253 – overdose, N. Aberdeen Ct.

Friday, March 13:

1001 – lost property/child, Main St.
1552 – missing person, N. Liberty St.
1834 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
1921 – assist other dept., N. Liberty St.
2101 – missing person, W. Columbia Ave.
2138 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Menlo Park Dr.
2247 – parking complaint, Santa Clara St.

Saturday, March 14:

0054 – animal complaint, High St.
0948 – property damage accident, S. Liberty St.
1420 – civil matter, W. Columbia Ave.
1511 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
1414 – welfare check, Main St.
xxxx – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
2010 – assist fire dept., Estrada
There are 82 reports on this week's log, 34 of which are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 8:

0322 – family trouble, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1348 – found property, Arizona St.
1352 – suspicious circumstance, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.
1410 – 911 hangup, Knollwood Dr.
1427 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
1441 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1636 – fraud complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1916 – dumping complaint, 47000 bl. Wear
2024 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
2044 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
2102 – family trouble, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
2115 – suspicious circumstance, Nevada St.
2138 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willis Rd. / Sherwood Rd.
2151 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2205 – suspicious circumstance, Magnolia Dr.
2207 – suspicious vehicle, Utah
2218 – follow-up investigation, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

Monday, March 9:

0834 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1018 – juvenile matter, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
1255 – family trouble, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1336 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1501 – 911 hangup, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.
1527 – civil matter, Virginia
1741 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1743 – animal complaint, Brookview Dr.
1749 – shots fired, Elwell Rd./Willis Rd.
1835 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1941 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
2103 – assault, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
2121 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2146 – family trouble, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.

Tuesday, March 10:

0051 – suspicious circumstance, Georgia St.
0801 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0831 – follow-up investigation, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1050 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1051 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

(Continued on page 19)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

1231 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
1538 – suspicious person, 23000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1748 – shots fired, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
1912 – 911 hangup, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1918 – mental health call, Birch
2107 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2117 – assist other agency, Redwood St.
2337 – suspicious circumstance, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.

Wednesday, March 11:

0059 – alarm, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0825 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
0905 – suspicious circumstance, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1118 – suspicious circumstance, Wyoming St.
1315 – family trouble, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.

1453 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz Rd./Clark Rd.
1511 – mental health call, Redwood St.
1844 – follow-up investigation, Colorado St.
1855 – civil matter, Magnolia Dr.
2013 – mental health call, Oregon St.
2024 – assist other agency, Birch Dr.
2107 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2219 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
2343 – citizen assist, Willis Rd./California St.

Thursday, March 12:

0838 – property damage accident, California St. / Wyoming St.
1126 – suspicious vehicle, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1132 – assist other agency, Brookview Dr.
1206 – suspicious circumstance, Montana St.
1216 – citizen assist, Brookview Dr.
1557 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1630 – mental health call, Oregon St.
1643 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1701 – welfare check, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1723 – suspicious circumstance, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1735 – 911 hangup, Mulberry Dr.

1743 – death investigation, 48000 bl. Harris
1916 – suspicious person, Willis/California
1946 – suspicious circumstance, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2024 – property damage accident, Judd Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
2026 – assist other agency, Utah Ct.
2107 – fire dept. assist, Martinsville/Willis

Friday, March 13:

0111 – fire dept. assist, Birch
0209 – family trouble, Utah St.
0711 – animal complaint, Timberlane Dr.
1004 – 911 hangup, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1200 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1212 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter Rd. / Willis Rd.
1218 – animal complaint, Hampshire Dr.
1231 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville Rd. / Judd Rd.
1346 – 911 hangup, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1359 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1415 – follow-up investigation, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1447 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1543 – family trouble, Utah St.
1558 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Wear Rd.
1621 – family trouble, 8200 bl. Rawsonville
1647 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.

1652 – alarm, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
1701 – fire dept. assist, Birch Ct.
1735 – welfare check, California St.
2134 – civil matter, Colorado St.
2224 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.

Saturday, March 14:

0134 – suspicious person, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
0200 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
1221 – civil matter, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1224 – found property, Rawsonville Rd./Judd
1419 – civil matter, Utah St.
1649 – suspicious circumstance, Willow Rd. / Elwell Rd.
1732 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1804 – mental health call, Delaware St.
1832 – civil matter, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1834 – juvenile matter, Sumpter Rd./Dunn Rd.
1918 – family trouble, Birch Ct.
1945 – family trouble, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2023 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
2025 – juvenile matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
2104 – suspicious person, Creekside dr.
2234 – juvenile matter, Judd Rd./Clark Rd.
2311 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.
Also on this week's log were 109 patrol checks, 45 traffic stops and 13 misc. details.



City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville PUBLIC NOTICE SPRING LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE



The City of Belleville Department of Public Works will conduct a special citywide leaf pickup beginning March 30, 2026, and continuing through April 10, 2026.

Due to equipment failure during the fall season, some leaf pickup was unable to be completed at that time.

To address this, crews will make one final pass through the entire city over this two-week period. Once this collection period concludes, the city will consider the 2025 fall leaf pickup program complete.

Residents are asked to follow the same placement guidelines as in previous seasons. Leaves should be placed as close to the curb as possible, but not in the gutter line. Keeping leaves out of the gutter allows proper drainage and helps our equipment collect materials more efficiently.

Because leaves remained on some lawns over the winter, there may be areas where grass has been affected. If damage occurs, city staff will return at a later date to apply topsoil and grass seed as needed to help restore affected lawns.

The City of Belleville appreciates residents' patience and cooperation as we complete this final collection effort.

Please contact the Department of Public Works with any questions (734) 697-9323 ext. 7027.

Briana Papin,
City Clerk/Treasurer

Published: March 19, 2026, March 26, 2026, April 2, 2026

Court Watching

Kyliyah Annaya Williams

Kyliyah Annaya Williams, previously of Sumpter Township and now of Ypsilanti, was video arraigned in custody on March 6 on a charge of domestic violence on March 4 in Sumpter Township. Personal bond is \$5,000. An in-person pretrial was set for March 24. She was ordered to have no contact with the complaining victim.

Alontez Lamont Gee-Bey

Alontez Lamont Gee-Bey of Dearborn Heights was video-arraigned in custody on March 5 on a charge of retail fraud—first degree and receiving and concealing stolen property between \$1,000 and \$20,000 in value on Sept. 10, 2025 in Van Buren Township.

A probable cause conference was set for March 17 and a preliminary exam for March 27. Personal bond is \$10,000.



They're reading the *Independent* Everywhere

Jennifer and Brian Blackburn of Sumpter Township read their *Independent* in Roatan, Honduras last week.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$55 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$60 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.



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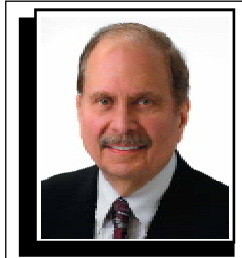
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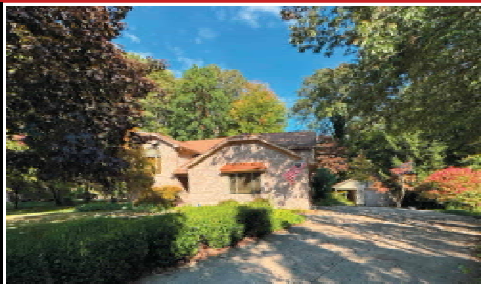
WE DON'T CHARGE WHAT THE OTHER BROKERS CHARGE - NO DOCUMENT STORAGE FEES NO COMPLIANCE FEES NO JUNK FEES



13691 BASSWOOD, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
CUSTOM BUILT Brick Ranch 3 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors, New Carpet, LaFata Kitchen, Finished Basement, 3 Car Garage, House Generator, New Roof. \$540,000



48620 WEAR, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
BEAUTY WORTH CELEBRATING 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths (One New) 1,690 Sq Ft on 1.3 Acres. Deck and Large Pole Barn room for a workshop and more. Extra Clean \$319,900



28503 MARGARET LN, HURON TOWNSHIP
THIS BRICK HOME HAS IT ALL 3,828 Total Square Feet of finished living space, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Hot Tub, 14x27 Family Room, 2 + 1 Car Garages .85 Acres Short Sale \$385,000



11012 JACKSON, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
FOR LEASE IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY Super Clean, freshly painted with new flooring throughout. 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath Ranch. Two car garage. No Smoking or Pets \$1,600 mo



29515 CHARLES, ROMULUS
COMING SOON. It's Loaded with 4 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, 1,647 Square Feet, Fireplace, Deck and More. On 1/2 Acre with Huge Garage. 1996 Construction Just \$200,000



5578 GRINDLEY PARK, DEARBORN HEIGHTS
COMFORTABLE AND SPACIOUS Brick Ranch. This home is move-in ready with updates throughout. Hardwood floors, large basement, half bath. 2 Car Garage \$234,900



12950 HAGGERTY VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
FOR LEASE Zoned M-2 for many uses. Best location with 16,800 SqFt For Lease. 20 Foot Ceilings, Large Offices Huge Work Area. Close to I-94 & I-275. \$6,900. Mo Triple Net



209 MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE
IT'S A POSSIBLE ANYTHING! 7,000+ Square Foot Building on High Traffic Main Street. Large Rooms Everywhere Finished Basement 6 plus Car Attached Garage. \$749,000

84 ACRES OAKVILLE WALTZ ASH TOWNSHIP-MONROE COUNTY. 1268 FRONTAGE ZONED LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL. NEAR I-275 Great Investment \$795,000

3 PARCELS 22530 Bohn Road Sumpter Twp One is 10.7 Acres at \$120,000 and 2.37 Acres at \$45,000 and 1.87 at \$45,000
SHERWOOD \$ SOLD cres \$60,000

GRANT & WAHRMAN 4 ACRES LT INDUS- TRIAL NEAR METRO AIRPORT \$250,000
WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64 AC PAVED ROAD WATER & SEWER AT STREET \$65,000

MARIO ANN COURT ROMULUS Finest Private Area in Romulus. Perfect location with City Water and Sewer at the Street. \$35,000
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 AC LT IND \$19,000

***** BELLEVILLE LAKEFRONT *** 2405 RAWSONVILLE 99X328 .74 AC \$99,900**
NORTHLINE ROMULUS 1.1 ACRES 208 FT FRONTAGE LT INDUSTRIAL ZON \$59,900



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